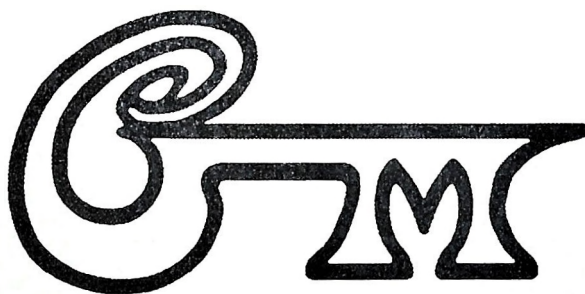


Notes From The Underground



**BE ACTIVE
REFUSE TO BE INVISIBLE -**

**A FREE PUBLICATION
Vol. Volume 1/2000**

January 2000

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BE ACTIVE - REFUSE TO BE INVISIBLE

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WHAT ARE YOU PREPARED TO DO? THIS YEAR

By Margo Ross

There is a very old TG saying

"You get out of the group, what you put into the group."

So look back over the last year:
- did the presentations meet your needs?

- were there events, topics and areas of interest that did not happen the way you wished?

If you answered **yes** to any of the above then you need to **get involved!**

Run for election, join a committee, take on an active role in the management of your group. It is too easy to complain considering just how easy it is to build the environment that we all want.

The choice is yours but remember that old TG saying!

President's Report from her Office in Downtown, Hull, PQ

by Joanne Law

This will be my last entry into the "Notes From The

Underground" as your president.

May of you know that I have stepped down to allow my successor new and interesting challenges for the group. I wish the new president of Gender Mosaic good luck in the next term, 2000. I am not going away just focusing my energy into another source. In the same breath I want to thank the board of directors 1999 for their dedicated support in Gender Mosaic. Margo 1st VP, Steacie 2nd VP, Natalie keeper of the record files, Doreen treasurer and financial wizard.

Each one of you have volunteered your time to Gender Mosaic and you have made a difference. If I was to mention all the things each one of you has contributed to the group, this issue of N F T U would be about half an inch thick.

Its been quiet an exceptional

year for me 1999. A year of wonderful, fantastic and amazing things in which I have been associated with, been a part of, or the recipient of.....

...January....Wow. Read of my herstory in 1999.

...February,... I was re-elected as President of Gender Mosaic. The best transgender support group in the world, located in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and bring it into the year 2000.

...February,... Having my own radio program at C K C U Carleton University, handed to me by Sylvia Martin "Voices Out Of The Closet" now called "Joanne's Closet" on air every Wednesday at 6:00-6:30, 93.1 fm. Its an informal information community radio program, allowing the voice of the transgender community to be heard in the city and rural areas, and around the world on the net. <http://ckcu.web.net>. Not just the "T" community but the G.L.B. communities too.

...March...Wining the TRINITY award was a complete surprise and having my wonderful friends in support, in helping me receive the award in Louisville Kentucky at the International Foundation of Gender Education, I.F.G.E. convention. This is the first time ever that this award was won outside the USA. Friends I will cherish this

always.

...April...Going to Provincetown Ma. Cape Cod in the USA, representing the Ottawa Pride Festival at a conference as an transgender member of Pride, sponsored by N.E.R.P. North Eastern Regional Pride. It was a wonderful experience. Learned a lot about festival planing.

...May... I stayed home and recuperated.

...June...I became very involved in outreach of the transgender community.

...July..."Pride In The Capital" festival party at RMOC in Ottawa. My position was site co-ordinator, responsible for 20,000 visitors to the party. A full week of fun events, community liaison, and social functions.

...July... A beautiful lady entered my life. We went for coffee.

...August...This wonderful lady moved in with me and we are now living in sin.

...September...At the AGM of the Pride Festival, I was elected 2nd vice chair of "Pride in the Capital 2000" This is one of Ottawa's largest festivals and we are expecting 40,000 people for the year 2000 celebration.

Ottawa was also selected the North American capital in PRIDE for the millennium, We are in the process of acquiring Parliament Hill for the party. Just for your information The Ottawa Pride Committee, is the only group allowed to march and celebrate on the Hill with a permit.

...October...I turned 55 years old feeling like 39. Another segment of my life became a reality. My partner made my first appointment at the doctor on my birthday, for me to start taking hormone's. Folks this is one decision which I have pondered over for a real long time.

...November...I started working part time again as my true self,

...December...My girlfriend Cecilia proposed to me at the Gender Mosaic Christmas Dinner. December 11th, 1999. She placed a beautiful diamond engagement ring on my ring finger, of course I said "YES". One thing for sure is that there will be two brides at the alter. When? We haven't set a date yet.

...I was asked to sit on the board of Academy of I.F.G.E.

Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart to everybody for everything. Working on behalf of us all

Joanne P. Law

SIMPLICITY vs COMPLEXITY

By Kaitlin Acres

It seems to me that the general public has a general desire for the universe to be simple. It is much easier to live a life where there are simple answers to everything. Fundamentalist religions around the world seem to be growing in popularity whether they are Christian, Muslim or any other. The world desired is an either or world. Everything is either one thing or another, right or wrong, right or left, capitalist or socialist etc. There seems to be no room for shades of grey let alone the full spectrum of colours. The expression Family Values relates to only one form of family, is not allowed to embrace a variety of committed, loving relationships. It seems the list could go on and on.

The problem is that such a view does not seem to have very much in common with the universe we live in except in the most superficial manner. The simplistic mechanical world we believed we lived in not so many years ago has given away to a wondrous world of infinite complexity. I do not have a background in theoretical physics, but I still enjoy reading in that field. If I

only understand one percent of what I read it is still exciting and worthwhile. To realize that classical math (my term) can only express a small part of what we experience is instructive. To read a bit on fractal math is a life expanding experience.

It is interesting that some scientists believe that it is this ever increasing complexity that, at least in part, drives the evolutionary process of the universe. If this is the case then we should celebrate the complexity we experience and allow ourselves to enjoy it.

If this is true then we should not be surprised that there is nothing simple about gender and sexuality, it should not be. As transgender/transsexual persons we are examples of the created order (or, perhaps disorder). It seems that there are those who would like to discover the reason why there are homosexual and transgender people so they can be cured. Perhaps these people are uneasy about the complexity of world around them. They may need to keep it simple so that they can maintain the illusion that they are in control. I rather feel sorry for such people, I suspect that they are missing much of the beauty and excitement of life.

Personally I am excited about being a gender enriched person. Perhaps I, and all others, are an expression of the great

complexity and diversity of the universe. As such an expression society needs to come to know us and be encouraged to value the complexity of their own selves.

Financial Reality Your Executive(s)

In a desire to provide Gender Mosaic's members with the best possible and safest environment, your executive (of the past three years in particular) have sought out a safe location, secured presenters and a variety of TG positive reference support providers from make-up, image and voice resources.

This is in addition to the maintenance of a phone line, a mail box location, newsletter and a outstanding Web site.

The truth is that the costs of providing these services have for a long time exceeded the revenues generated by the annual membership fees and monthly meeting fees.

In fact GM would have been financially insolvent several times without the generosity of key members.

As you review the Financial Report covering Gender Mosaic's annual expenses you will see that your executive has once again, on your behalf accomplished an enormous

amount with very little.

However, there are additional unfulfilled financial initiatives ahead: Non Profit incorporation, Charitable Status, increased outreach in the general media and increased quality and frequency of presenters.

You as a member need to decide just how important Gender Mosaic is to you. What you want from the group, the level of support Gender Mosaic should provide to the transgender community at large and most important what level of support you are prepared to give back to Gender Mosaic.

The time has come to increase membership fees and meeting fees or stop deceiving our members and reduce services.

NOTE, Gender Mosaic will not abandon any individual who finds them self in tight financial times and therefore must build in their fees continued support from the group so that those members do not loose access to this life line.

The February Annual General Meeting would be a perfect time to address this issue as GM is at risk of losing potential donations, funding and even the basic level of support that we have taken for granted..

A Change In My Life

by Joanne Law

Another year has gone by and most of you know that I am stepping down as President of Gender Mosaic. Its time for another person to take the responsibility and lead the group into the next century. I am changing my focus to other things now, in the same time I am not moving away from my friends and life support. I will be just another member of Gender Mosaic but not your leader.

That does not mean I will stop all together. I will be doing my outreach to the greater communities, challenging the system and fighting for human rights. Its nice now, that there are others in the transgender community that have become the focus for the media. Another voice in the choirs, another thought. Now in the other communities they are seeing 5 or 10 transgender people becoming involved. And in the future who knows. If I knew the future I would be buying the winning ticket in the million dollar lotteries, buy my two masted yacht and sail around the world with my partner. Now in the present I am full of million dollar emotions and love. Like I said in the Presidents Report, Its been quite a year.

My I wish the new President of

Gender Mosaic, wisdom to keep us all together, strength to make the right decision, be able to share your love with members who are still struggling with who they are. Continue embracing the big sisters and brothers who have been around for a while and help new members into the fold as they venture into the unknown.

Good luck and success to Gender Mosaics next president, as we enter the next millennium.

Did You Know?

The Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Vanier Ontario. K1L 8E4 can be used by all members for their packages, delivery of books or magazines. I will pick them up and get them to you some way. Just let me know. Thanks Joanne 770-1945

Upcoming Events

- Annual General Meeting and Election February 12, 2000

- GM Support & discussion Group fourth Thursday of each month contact Margo

- TS Support & discussion Group third Sunday of each month - contact Gwen 828.7988

- Partner's Support & discussion Group January

11, 2000, February 8, 2000
- contact Jan 236.9110

Next Edition April 2000

For Answers

to those every present Image questions

- what is my body type?
- how can I better buy clothes that make me look and feel great?
- how can I save money on my purchases?
- where to get my hair cut to enhance my looks?

For Member Feedback on these services talk to Lynn, Gwen or Randi

Call Michelle Horne at 762.8994

For Make-up assistance Joanne Stuart 830.1465

Executive Committee

President: Joanne Law
First VP: Margo Ross
Second VP: Steacie
Secretary: Natalie
Treasury: Doreen

Committee Chairs

Library - Lynn Nicole Lefevre
Membership -
Ombudsperson- Linda A
Newsletter- Margo Ross & Linda S.

Gender Mosaic

P.O. Box 7421 Vanier,
Ontario, K1L 8E4
770 - 1945
Email gender_moscai@geocities.co

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER

Share your experiences,

thoughts and ideas

- write and article

contribute to your

communities awareness.

Remember you get out of life what you put into it.

Go for what you need and happy!

Over The Counter Bras Measurement

STEP 1

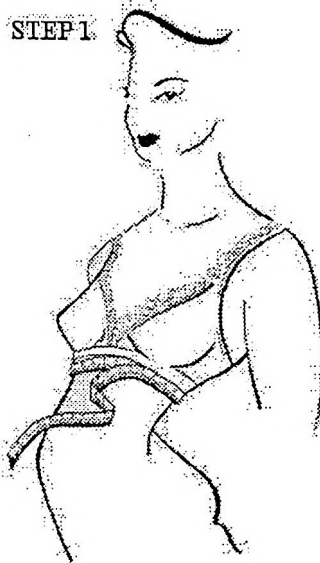
Measure around the body directly under the bust while wearing a bra. If the measurement is an odd number add 3" if an even number add 4"

e.g. $29'' + 3'' = 32''$

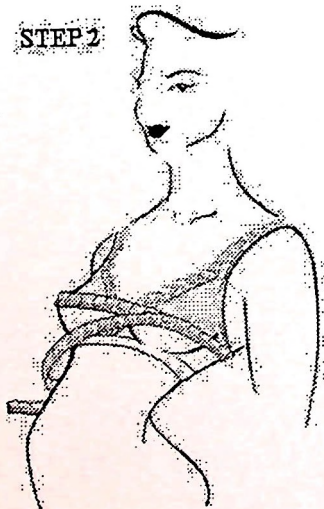
$30'' + 4'' = 34''$

this indicates the bra size.

STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 2

For the cup size, measure the fullest part of the bust. If the difference is 1 inch you require an 'A' cup.

2"	3"	4"	5"	6"	7"	8"
B	C	D	DD	E	F	FF